Basic information

2014/0083(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EU/Moldova Association Agreement See also 1994/0249(AVC) See also 2014/2817(INI) See also 2015/0079(COD) See also 2017/2281(INI) **Subject** 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.15 European neighbourhood policy **Geographical area** Moldova	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	AUŠTREVIČIUS Petras (ALDE)	09/07/2014
	Shadow rapporteur GAHLER Michael (PPE) FAJON Tanja (S&D) DZHAMBAZKI Angel (ECR) ŠOLTES Igor (Verts/ALE)	

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs		

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
INTA International Trade	MOISĂ Sorin (S&D)	03/09/2014
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed

	INTA International Trade		
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		

Council of the European Union	
European Commission	

Commission DG	Commissioner
European External Action Service	-- --
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	-- --
Trade and Economic Security	-- --

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/03/2014	Preparatory document	COM(2014)0146	Summary
02/06/2014	Legislative proposal published	09828/2014	Summary
15/09/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/10/2014	Vote in committee		
21/10/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0020/2014	Summary
13/11/2014	Decision by Parliament	T8-0050/2014	Summary
13/11/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/11/2014	Debate in Parliament		
23/05/2016	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
23/05/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/05/2016	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2014/0083(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	See also 1994/0249(AVC) See also 2014/2817(INI) See also 2015/0079(COD) See also 2017/2281(INI)

Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 217 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p8-a2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p7 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/8/00389

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE537.338	09/09/2014	
Committee opinion	INTA	PE537.343	08/10/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A8-0020/2014	21/10/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T8-0050/2014	13/11/2014	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	09828/2014	02/06/2014	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	17903/2013	27/06/2014	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2014)0146	10/03/2014	Summary
For information	COM(2014)0147	10/03/2014	
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2014)0157	10/03/2014	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2016/0839
OJ L 141 28.05.2016, p. 0028 Summary

EU/Moldova Association Agreement

2014/0083(NLE) - 23/05/2016 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude an Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

NON LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2016/839 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part.

BACKGROUND: relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova based until recently on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which entered into effect in July 1998.

On 15 June 2009 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Moldova for the conclusion of a new Agreement with the European Union to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Those negotiations were successfully finalised, and the Association Agreement between the EU and Euratom and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part was initialled on 29 November 2013.

In accordance with Council Decision 2014/492/EU, the Agreement was signed on 27 June 2014, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

The Agreement must be concluded.

CONTENT: with this Decision, the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part, is approved on behalf of the Union.

Objectives of the Association Agreement: the Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on:

- strengthening political dialogue between the Parties;
- promoting, and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- promoting cooperation on peaceful conflict resolution;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Moldova's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

Sectoral cooperation: the Association Agreement also provides for a wide range of sectoral cooperation, focusing on support to core reforms, economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation in 28 areas, such as:

- public administration reform,
- management of public finances,
- energy and transport,
- environmental protection and direct action,
- industrial and small and medium enterprise cooperation,
- social policies,
- consumer protection,
- agriculture and rural development,
- cross-border and regional level cooperation,
- education and training,
- civil society cooperation and youth as well as cultural cooperation.

In all of these areas, enhanced cooperation starts from the basis of current frameworks, both bilateral and multilateral, with the aim of **more systematic dialogue and exchange** of information and good practice.

Gradual approximation of legislation: key to the sectoral cooperation chapters is gradual approximation with the EU acquis, which will form the core of Moldova's domestic reform and modernisation agenda.

Free trade area: a free trade area between the EU and Moldova is envisaged. Approximation of Moldovan with EU legislation, norms and standards, will be the method.

Geographical indications: the Agreement sets out the relevant procedures for the protection of geographical indications that are given protection pursuant to the Agreement. The Agreement should not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations that can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts and tribunals.

It is stipulated that a name protected under the “Geographical Indications” of the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

Member States and the institutions of the Union shall enforce the protection provided for in the Agreement, including at the request of an interested party.

Institutional framework: the Agreement includes an updated institutional framework encompassing cooperation and dialogue fora. Specific decision-making roles are envisaged for an Association Council, and by delegation for an Association Committee, which may also meet in a specific configuration to address trade issues. Provision for fora for civil society and parliamentary cooperation is also made. The Agreement includes provisions on monitoring, fulfilment of obligations and dispute settlement (including separate provisions for trade-related issues).

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision enters into force on 23.05.2016. The Agreement enters into force when all procedures necessary to effect this have been carried out.

EU/Moldova Association Agreement

2014/0083(NLE) - 10/03/2014

PURPOSE: to conclude the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova are currently based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which entered into effect in July 1998.

On 15 June 2009 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Moldova for the conclusion of a **new Agreement** with the European Union to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Negotiations of this comprehensive and ambitious Agreement between the EU and Moldova were launched in January 2010. In February 2012, the EU and Moldova also launched negotiations on the **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) part, as a core element of the Association Agreement**.

The Association Agreement aims to accelerate the deepening of political and economic relations between Moldova and the EU, as well as **advance Moldova's gradual economic integration with the EU Internal Market in selected areas**, inter alia through a DCFTA, as an integral part of the Agreement.

On 29 November 2013, the EU and Moldova initialled the text of the Association Agreement.

The Agreement should be approved on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: the proposal calls on the Council to approve on behalf of the Union the Association Agreement between the Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

Objectives of the Association Agreement: the Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on :

- promoting a gradual rapprochement between the parties on the basis of common values;
- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Moldova's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

Sectoral cooperation : the Association Agreement also provides for a wide range of sectoral cooperation, focusing on support to core reforms, economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation in 28 areas, such as :

- public administration reform,
- management of public finances,
- energy and transport,
- environmental protection and direct action,
- industrial and small and medium enterprise cooperation,
- social policies,
- consumer protection,
- agriculture and rural development,
- cross-border and regional level cooperation,
- education and training,
- civil society cooperation and youth as well as cultural cooperation.

In all of these areas, enhanced cooperation starts from the basis of current frameworks, both bilateral and multilateral, with the aim of **more systematic dialogue and exchange of information and good practice.**

Gradual approximation of legislation: key to the sectoral cooperation chapters is gradual approximation with the EU acquis set out in the annexes to the Agreement. Specific schedules for approximation and implementation by Moldova of selected parts of the EU acquis will form the core of Moldova's domestic reform and modernisation agenda.

DCFTA: closer economic integration through the DCFTA will be a powerful stimulant to the country's economic growth. As a core element of the Association Agreement, the DCFTA will create business opportunities in both the EU and Moldova and will promote real economic modernisation and gradual integration with the EU. Higher standards of products, better services to citizens, and above all Moldova's ability to compete effectively in international markets should be the result of this process.

Geographical indications: provision is made to protect EU geographical indications. A name protected under the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

Institutional framework: the Agreement includes an updated institutional framework encompassing cooperation and dialogue fora. Specific decision-making roles are envisaged for Association Council, and by delegation for an Association Committee, which may also meet in a specific configuration to address trade issues. Space for civil society and parliamentary cooperation is also provided.

The Agreement also includes provisions on monitoring, approximation, fulfilment of obligations and dispute settlement (including separate provisions for trade-related matters).

EU/Moldova Association Agreement

2014/0083(NLE) - 13/11/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 535 votes to 94, with 44 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement.

EU/Moldova Association Agreement

2014/0083(NLE) - 21/10/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Petras AUŠTREVIČIUS (ADLE, LT), in which it recommended the European Parliament to give its consent to draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part.

In order to ensure the success of the Association Agreement, it should be implemented thoroughly and steadily by both partners. Members are aware that the Agreement requires costly reforms in Moldova. For this reason, the EU should assist Moldova in adopting the relevant laws and implementing arrangements and should monitor their actual enforcement.

EU/Moldova Association Agreement

2014/0083(NLE) - 02/06/2014 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on 15 June 2009, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Moldova for the conclusion of a new Agreement between the Union and Moldova to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Those negotiations were successfully finalised and the Association Agreement between EURATOM and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part, was initialled on 29 November 2013.

In accordance with a Council Decision, the Agreement was signed subject to its conclusion at a later date.

It is now necessary to conclude this Agreement on behalf of the European Union.

CONTENT: under this proposal, the Council is called upon to approve the Association Agreement between the EU and Moldova.

Objectives of the Association Agreement: the draft Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** of Moldova and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on:

- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- promoting cooperation on peaceful conflict resolution;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Moldova's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
- enhancing justice, freedom and security cooperation with the aim of reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
- establishing conditions for increasingly close cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

For further details of the objectives of the Agreement, please refer to the summary of the *initial Commission legislative proposal from 10/03/2014*.

Geographical indications: the draft Agreement sets out the relevant procedures for the protection of geographical indications which are given protection pursuant to the Agreement. The Agreement should not be construed as conferring rights or imposing obligations which can be directly invoked before Union or Member State courts and tribunals.

It is stipulated that a name protected under the “Geographical Indications” of the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

The Member States and the institutions of the Union shall enforce the protection provided for in the Agreement, including at the request of an interested party.

On a procedural note, modifications to the Agreement through decisions of the Geographical Indications Sub-Committee shall be approved by the Commission on behalf of the Union.

Where interested parties cannot reach agreement following objections relating to a geographical indication, the Commission shall adopt a position on the basis of the specific procedure.

EU/Moldova Association Agreement

2014/0083(NLE) - 10/03/2014 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova are currently based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which entered into effect in July 1998.

On 15 June 2009 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Moldova for the conclusion of a **new Agreement** with the European Union to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

Negotiations of this comprehensive and ambitious Agreement between the EU and Moldova were launched in January 2010. In February 2012, the EU and Moldova also launched negotiations on the **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) part, as a core element of the Association Agreement**.

The Association Agreement aims to accelerate the deepening of political and economic relations between Moldova and the EU, as well as **advance Moldova's gradual economic integration with the EU Internal Market in selected areas**, inter alia through a DCFTA, as an integral part of the Agreement.

On 29 November 2013, the EU and Moldova initialled the text of the Association Agreement.

The Agreement should be approved on behalf of the EU.

CONTENT: the proposal calls on the Council to approve on behalf of the Union the Association Agreement between the Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part.

Objectives of the Association Agreement: the Agreement establishes an association between the Parties, aiming at **political association and economic integration** and leaving open the way for further progressive developments.

The overall aims of the association focus on :

- promoting a gradual rapprochement between the parties on the basis of common values;
- strengthening the framework for enhanced political dialogue;
- promoting, preserving and strengthening peace and stability in both the regional and international dimensions;
- establishing conditions for enhanced economic and trade relations leading towards Moldova's gradual economic integration with the EU internal market in selected areas;
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Sectoral cooperation : the Association Agreement also provides for a wide range of sectoral cooperation, focusing on support to core reforms, economic recovery and growth, governance and sector cooperation in 28 areas, such as :

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- social policies,
- consumer protection,
- agriculture and rural development,
- cross-border and regional level cooperation,
- education and training,
- civil society cooperation and youth as well as cultural cooperation.

In all of these areas, enhanced cooperation starts from the basis of current frameworks, both bilateral and multilateral, with the aim of **more systematic dialogue and exchange of information and good practice.**

Gradual approximation of legislation: key to the sectoral cooperation chapters is gradual approximation with the EU acquis set out in the annexes to the Agreement. Specific schedules for approximation and implementation by Moldova of selected parts of the EU acquis will form the core of Moldova's domestic reform and modernisation agenda.

DCFTA: closer economic integration through the DCFTA will be a powerful stimulant to the country's economic growth. As a core element of the Association Agreement, the DCFTA will create business opportunities in both the EU and Moldova and will promote real economic modernisation and gradual integration with the EU. Higher standards of products, better services to citizens, and above all Moldova's ability to compete effectively in international markets should be the result of this process.

Geographical indications: provision is made to protect EU geographical indications. A name protected under the Agreement may be used by any operator marketing agricultural products, foodstuffs, wines, aromatised wines or spirits conforming to the corresponding specification.

Institutional framework: the Agreement includes an updated institutional framework encompassing cooperation and dialogue fora. Specific decision-making roles are envisaged for Association Council, and by delegation for an Association Committee, which may also meet in a specific configuration to address trade issues. Space for civil society and parliamentary cooperation is also provided.

The Agreement also includes provisions on monitoring, approximation, fulfilment of obligations and dispute settlement (including separate provisions for trade-related matters).